



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



May 24, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

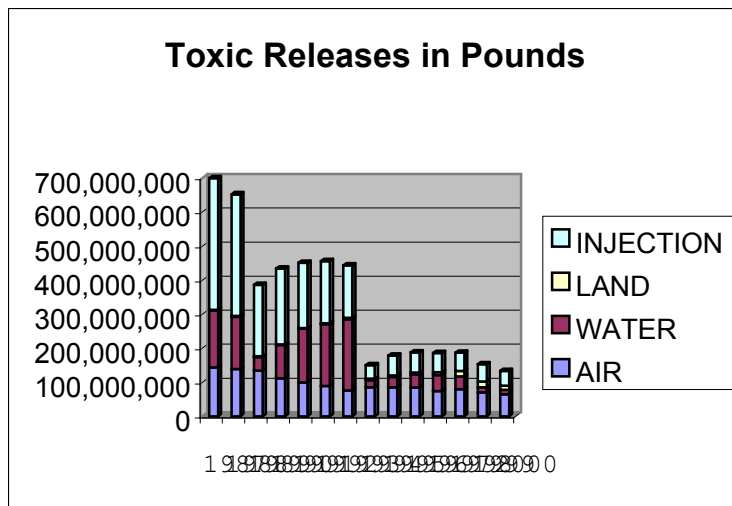
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J. Dale Givens
Secretary

Louisiana Continues to Show Reductions in TRI Releases for Reporting Year 2000

The Louisiana Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program has released the data for reporting year 2000. This data, compiled annually from self-reported release estimates, is submitted to the state and EPA by facilities that are subject to the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). In 1986, Congress enacted EPCRA because citizens had the right to know about chemicals manufactured in their communities. Section 313 of EPCRA establishes a national database identifying annual amounts of chemicals released on-site and transferred off-site for further waste management.

Based on reports submitted by 371 Louisiana facilities, the state had 147 million pounds in total on-site releases, approximately 4% reduction from last year and 79% reduction from the baseline year (1987), in which nearly 700 million pounds were reported. Nearly half of all releases were reported as air releases (69 million pounds or 48%), while water discharges totaled 13 million pounds (9%), on-site land releases were 13 million pounds (9%), and underground injection releases were 52 million pounds (35%). Air releases decreased slightly by 1% from 1999 while water discharges and on-site land releases declined by 17% and 26%, respectively. However, underground injection showed a slight increase of 3% from last year.



In terms of comparing all industries covered by the TRI Program, EPA has ranked releases in Louisiana to other states as follows:

Total On-site and Off-site releases – 11th

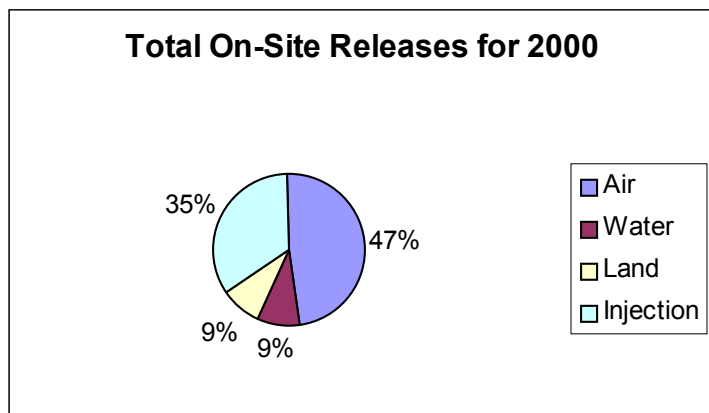
Total On-site Releases – 9th

Total Releases within State – 10th

On-site releases are those releases to the air, water, or land that occur at the facility. Air releases reported under TRI are from point sources (stack emissions that occur through confined air streams like stacks, vents, ducts, or pipes) or fugitive emissions (equipment leaks, releases from building ventilation systems, evaporation from surface impoundments). Surface water discharges include discharges to water bodies such as streams, rivers, lakes, as well as releases from contained sources like industrial outfalls and releases due to stormwater runoff. Land releases are those that occur within the boundaries of the reporting facility. These include spills or leaks, disposal of toxic chemicals in landfills, and surface impoundments (holding areas used to settle waste materials). Off-site releases are the transfers sent to locations off-site for disposal.

In addition to releases, facilities are required to report activities in which waste associated with production are managed by the facilities. These activities include recycling, energy recovery and treatment. Facilities participating in recycling activities contribute to the conservation of energy and natural resources in our state. Energy recovery also shares a role in conserving energy and natural resources. Waste treatment is for destruction of the waste. Approximately 800 million pounds of TRI chemicals were reported as being recycled on-site. Nearly 400 million pounds of TRI chemicals were recovered for energy on-site and over 8 billion pounds of TRI chemicals were treated on-site by Louisiana facilities. Including the activities occurring off-site for these categories, Louisiana led all states in managing approximately 9 billion pounds of production-related waste. This is a substantial amount of waste that has been handled by facilities, thereby conserving energy and natural resources in our state.

Within the state, the top parish was Ascension Parish, with 17 facilities reporting 24 million pounds in total releases. Cytec Industries in Jefferson Parish reported the most releases of approximately 17 million pounds (97% of all releases reported to underground injection).



The data for RY2000 includes information on the persistent, bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals. These chemicals are of particular concern because of their toxicity and their ability to remain unchanged in the environment for long periods of time. They are not readily destroyed or broken down and tend to build up or accumulate in body tissues. Since small amounts of these contaminants can pose a threat to human health and the environment, EPA lowered the reporting threshold for these chemicals and added other PBT chemicals to the TRI list. For PBTs that fell into the pesticides and lead/lead compounds, the threshold was lowered to 100 pounds. For mercury and mercury compounds, the threshold was lowered to 10 pounds. For dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, the threshold was lowered to 0.1 gram.

Of the 17 chemicals designated as PBTs, eight were reported by Louisiana facilities: polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs), mercury compounds, hexachlorobenzene, mercury, benzo(g,h,i)perylene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pentachlorobenzene, and dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. There

were 210 facilities that reported PBT chemicals, for a state total of 141,568 pounds. PACs had the largest amount of releases (105,000) while total releases for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds were 5 pounds statewide. Distribution of PBT chemicals by media are shown in the chart below.

